



Master Gardeners of Greene County

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI
Extension

Volume 18, Issue 12

December 2008

GRAPEVINE

From the President

Mark Bernskoetter, MG—887-5782

marnaeb@sbcglobal.net

Below you can find the calendar of events that takes us into activities for next year. You can see that we already have some seminars and activities on the agenda to kick off 2009.

It's time to finalize your hour sheets and get them ready to turn in. You may send them to the Extension office or bring them to the potluck dinner January 13 – we hope to see most of you there.

Remember, hours sheets, and the calendar of events, and fliers about seminars are all available at our website.

Wishing you all the very best of the holiday season.

I hope Santa leaves you lots of gardening accessories!

DECEMBER

- 2 Board meeting 4:30 1st Tuesday
- 9 No general meeting – Happy Holidays!
- 9 Deadline for information to be in next month's Grapevine

JANUARY

- 6 New board meeting 4:30 1st Tuesday
- 13 Potluck dinner at St Johns Cancer Center and bring a gift to exchange
- 24 "Gardening Inside Out" seminar-seed starting, new plants, and African Violets at St Johns Cancer Center

FEBRUARY

- 7 Vegetable gardening from start to finish at St Johns Cancer Center
- 20-22 Lawn and Garden Show

Board Members

Mark Bernskoetter,
President

Ann Hall,
Vice President

Renae Bernskoetter,
Secretary

Christy Jenkins,
Treasurer

Carl Redmon,
Board Member

Dr. Larry Dowell,
Board Member

Amy Tuggle,
Board Member

Janet McWilliams,
Board Member

Please Contact
Nancy To
Update Your
Address
@
chambersn@
missouri.edu



Treasurer's Report
Christy Jenkins, MG, Treasurer—759-2987

As of October 31, 2008, we had the following account balances:

Extension Account—\$ 6606.45

MG Account - \$ 4448.92

Certificates of Deposit - \$ 15,598.11

Total Cash - \$ 26,653.48

January is our chili/soup/ham and bean/potluck. There was a sign up at the October and November meetings. If you have any questions about what you need to bring call me (725-3203). Table service and drinks will be provided.

There will be a gift exchange. If you want to participate bring a wrapped garden related gift (7 to 10 dollars).

Debi Hunget and Donna Allyn will be needing fresh greenery for the tables. Please contact them if you have any for decorations. We will be decorating at 5:00PM and the potluck starts at 6:30PM.

**Thanks,
Jana Belk**

Program News

We'll be taking a break for the holidays in December. Try to relax and enjoy the season. Plant an amaryllis and peruse all of the gardening catalogs in anticipation for next year. We hope to see everyone at the potluck dinner in January. We're working on many interesting and informative programs for 2009... Be sure to mark your calendar for the second Tuesday of each month!

**Happy Holidays,
Amy Tuggle
886.0866**



Master Gardeners of Greene County Board Meeting Minutes 11/4/08

Voting Board members in attendance: Larry Dowell, Christy Jenkins, Janet McWilliams, Carl Redmon, Mark Bernskoetter and Renae Bernskoetter. Committee Chairs in attendance: Mary Gallagher, Cindy Arrowood

Approval of Minutes: Christy moved to accept the minutes as printed, Larry seconded, motion passed.

Treasurer Report Christy reported a balance of \$26,653.48 total assets as of Oct 31, 2008.

Bills to be paid: Donna Allen Spring Banquet \$42.20 and \$38.14 plants for Xeriscape. Cindy Arrowood \$172.66 bulbs for Nat Greene, Carl Redmon \$82.11 for Xeriscape.

Additional interest made on Certificates of Deposit: \$70.03 on \$5000 cd and \$284.13 on the \$10,000 cd.

Renae moved to accept the report and to pay the bills, Janet seconded, motioned passed.

Hotline: Mary Gallagher reported that there were 1,992 calls received by the hotline for the 2008 season. There were 38 workers who covered the hotline and Mary said things went very well. Patricia Bannerman will be the new chair for 2009. There were 10 members in attendance for the meeting on Tues Oct 28. Calls will be answered from home over the winter months. Mark asked Mary why she thought the scheduling went better this year than in the past. She said that there were more folks working the hotline including several from the 2008 class.

Xeriscape: Carl reported that one tree has been removed and that another will be removed soon.

Nathanael Greene: Cindy reported that 20 members attended the Breakfast in Bed. She also said that the rest of the hedge has been removed. Carl reported that 50 pounds of green beans were donated to the Kitchen from the Veggie Garden's fall crop.

Programs: Mark reminded the Board that the November meeting will be "fall crafts" and that anyone who had a fall craft should bring it to share.

Public Education: Renae reported that plans were underway for several events for 2009. A sign will be posted at Nat Greene for the public to see what events are coming up.

Newsletter: Mark reported that the November newsletter had a few problems being sent to the printer since the file size was very large. In the future, Nancy will convert the file to PDF so that it can be sent easier to the printer.

Old Business

-Membership "perk" card – Susan Hansen has volunteered to work on the "perks" card. She will be getting more information on the businesses that are willing to participate. Mark asked for the Board to decide on some parameters for the distribution of the cards. Discussion followed and Christy moved to have the "perks" card to be given to members who turn in their hours to the extension

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(Continued from page 3)

office by January 31, and have made the minimum hours. The cards will be mailed to eligible members in February. The cards will expire each calendar year. Carl seconded and the motion passed

-Mark reported that the By Laws changes were overwhelmingly approved. There were a few no votes on some of the line items but each item received well over the 2/3 needed for approval.

-Cindy asked how many Advanced training hours are required. Renae stated that the By Laws state in the Policies and Procedures that 6 or more hours are recommended yearly.

-Carl stated that he is still in search for a tiller. He is talking to Nixa Hardware to see what price we can get.

-Empire Fair-Mark spoke with Mary Quinn, she will be sending us information on who won our awards and the amounts of those awards.

New Business:

-Pat had several questions from the USDA in addition to our usual reporting of volunteer hours.

1. pounds of fresh produce donated to food banks APPROX 250 POUNDS

2. for a designated 12 month time span, she would like the following:

a. number of hotline contacts (we can get this by counting the green sheets) 1992 FOR 2008

b. site visit contact that might have been made by master gardeners. STILL GATHERING INFO

c. number of people who attended Master Gardener sponsored educational presentations. This would include the number attending monthly MG general meetings. THERE WERE APPROX 135 IN ATTENDANCE AT SEMINARS ARRANGED BY OUR PUBLIC EDUCATION COMMITTEE. WE AVERAGE 60 MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE AT OUR MONTHLY MEETINGS. THERE WERE ALSO OTHER PROGRAMS PUT ON BY OTHER MEMBERS AND THROUGH THE SPEAKERS BUREAU. THERE WAS ALSO THE LAWN AND GARDEN SHOW AND THE EMPIRE FAIR.

d. number of email responses made by master gardeners (this would likely be most hotline responses) APPROX 150.

e. number of people reached by mg programming through media (your column, for instance) Mark will gather the information and get it back to Pat.

-Renae mentioned that during a visit to the Chicago Botanical Garden she had noticed signs placed in the gardens to explain what was happening in the bed. One of their signs explained that the gooseberry bushes were bare due to a fungal problem and what they were doing to correct the problem. Their signs were made from brass and grease pencil was used to write on them. Renae suggested that we could use dry erase boards in the kiosk at Nat Greene. Doing this will enable us to educate those folks who come to the gardens even when no one is working there.

Next board meeting date – Tuesday, Dec 2, 2008– 4:30 pm

Respectfully submitted, Renae Bernskoetter, MG Secretary



Master Gardeners of Greene County General Meeting Nov 11, 2008

INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION IN ADDITION TO BOARD MINUTES

Our meeting started with a show and tell of garden related crafts. Several brought in their wonderful crafts including members of the Springfield Water Garden Society. Pictures and information on some of the crafts will be available on their web site.

Extension report: Pat reported that the orientation meeting for those interested in taking the Master Gardener training will be in December and the classes will start in late Jan/early Feb 2009.

Patricia Tursi announced that there would be a meeting of the “Well Fed Neighbor” on Sunday November 23, at the Library Center at 2pm. A flyer was available at this meeting.

Grapevine: There was an error in the printing of the November issue. This happened at the printer and a corrected copy is available here. One will be mailed to any member not in attendance tonight. The emailed version was correct.

Xeriscape: There may be another work day, watch for announcement. If you have a chance go by and check out the newly renovated cactus bed. Much work has been done to it.

Nathanael Greene: Thanks to all who attended the Breakfast in Bed. The gardens are looking good.

Social Committee: Reminder of the Pot Luck in January. Soup/chili dinner, sign up for what you will bring. Bring a gift (\$10) for the gift exchange.

Programs: February meeting, Pat will be presenting on the Emerald Ash Borer. March we will have a speaker on Rain Gardens and using native shrubs. REMINDER: no meeting in December.

Respectfully submitted: Renae Bernskoetter, MG Secretary



Thanksgiving will have officially come and gone by the time you read this, but I would like to take this opportunity to give many thanks for this past gardening season:

Thanks to the wonderful Guardian of the Garden, Jim Hawkins, who works on an almost daily basis, not only on “his beds”, but also doing the regular maintenance of weeding, mulching, digging out rogue trees, dividing giant grasses, planting bulbs, spraying walkways, moving rocks, watering during dry spells, and being a “public face” to the many Xeriscape visitors. We wouldn’t have the beautiful garden we do without his hours of work.

Thanks to the wonderful Bedheads who have assumed responsibility this year for planning and planting and maintaining their beds: Jeanie Skibiski, Donna Allyn, Pat Schwartz, Rebecca Nickols and Jim Hawkins. There is a great deal of thought and research behind their planting---and it shows in the success rate of their plants!

Thanks to the many faithful Master Gardeners who show up to plant, weed, mulch and deadhead when we send out those clarion calls for help. It never ceases to amaze me what six or eight or ten people can accomplish in a morning or evening when we work together. [It is also significantly more enjoyable!]

Thanks to Carl Redmon for his many, many trips with compost, mulch and potted-up plants, with never a sigh or complaint. And thanks to his brother for brother for the invaluable tipping flatbed!

Thanks to the Master Gardeners like Pat Grieshaber or Cindy Arrowood who provide experience and expertise when we call for advice about our roses, daylilies, etc. Learning from each other seems so much more powerful [and believable] than researching roses in Texas or daylilies in North Carolina.

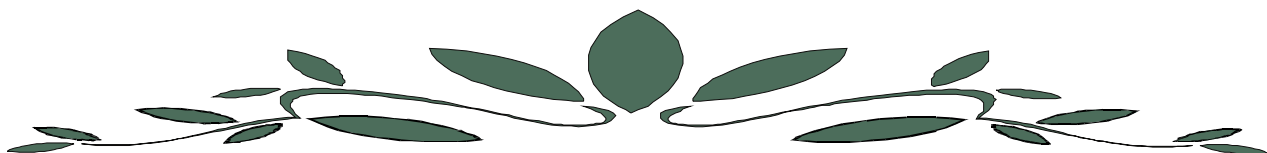
Thanks to the Master Gardeners who visit the Xeriscape and tell us it’s pretty or “amazingly weed-free”. Gardeners need just as much “fertilizer” as their plants do!

Thanks to the MG Board of Directors for the new, working, irrigation system for the Xeriscape Garden---and for such an incredibly wonderful season that we didn’t need to use the system except once!

And finally, thanks for the health, fellowship, and opportunity to be involved in such a wonderful group of gardeners! May our flowers bloom as profusely next year.

Barbara St. Clair

887.9536





PUBLIC EDUCATION COMMITTEE:

Renaë Bernskoetter Co-Chair

Marnaeb@sbcglobal.net

We are getting ready for the 2009 season. The Winter Gardening Seminar is coming together. It is scheduled for January 24th and will cost \$10. Amy Tuggle is doing a superb job in putting the topics and speakers together.

We will be hearing about African Violets, the weather and gardening, lilies, and seeds and new plants. There may be more covered, it is still in the building stage.

The vegetable gardening seminar is going to be on February 7th and will cost \$15 as it includes a light lunch. Amy has speakers covering vegetable gardening from start to finish.

Both will be held at the St Johns Cancer Center. Hopefully there is a flier for the winter gardening and the vegetable gardening seminars included in this mailing (if I get them created in time). The fliers will appear on our web site as soon as they are done.

‘Twas the night before Christmas

“Twas the night before Christmas and all through the yard the branches were bare and the ground frozen hard; The roses were dormant and mulched all around to protect them from damage if frost heaves the ground. The perennials were nestled all snug in their beds while visions of 5-10-5 danced in their heads. The new-planted shrubs, had been soaked by the hose to settle their roots for the long winter’s doze. And out on the lawn, the new fallen snow protected the roots of the grasses below. When what to my wondering eyes should appear but a truck full of gifts of gardening gear. Saint Nick was the driver—jolly old elf and he winked as he said, “I’m a gardener myself. I’ve brought wilt-pruf, rootone, and gibberellins, too”. Please try them and see what they do. To start new plants, a propagating kit. Sparkling new shears, for the old apple tree. To seed your new lawn, I’ve a patented sower; in case it should grow, here’s a new power mower. For seed-planting day, I’ve a trowel and a dibble, and a roll of wire mesh if the rabbits should nibble. For the feminine gardener, some gadgets she loves; plant stakes, a sprinkler, and waterproof gloves; a chemical agent for the compost pit, and for pH detecting, a soil testing kit. With these colorful flagstones, lay a new garden path, for the kids to enjoy, and bird feeder and bath. And last but not least, some well-rotted manure. A green Christmas year round, these gifts will ensure. Then jolly Saint Nick, having emptied his load, started his truck and took to the road. And I heard him exclaim through the motor’s loud hum, Merry Christmas to all, and to all a green thumb.”

Donated by Ernest Braswell

GREENE COUNTY
833 N. Boonville Avenue
Springfield, MO 65802-3810

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Thank heaven for winter, when we can sit quietly and ease our aching knees and backs, with time to peruse seed lists, read, visit friends, write letters, and dream of yet more perfect gardens.

**H. Lincoln Foster & Laura Louise Foster, Cutting from a Rock Garden,
1990**

**Growing on the vine,
Susan**

Master Gardeners of Southwest Missouri
833 Boonville, Springfield, MO 65802
Phone: 417-862-9284 Fax: 417-862-1809
Hotline 417-862-9284